

TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS

GIVEN AWAY BY BEWLEY HARDWARE CO.

To the farmer who will haul to the front of our store on Saturday, May 6th, not later than 12 o'clock, the greatest number of people on one vehicle, whether said vehicle has two wheels, four wheels or a dozen wheels, drawn by horses, mules or oxen, we will present free, with our compliments, one

\$25.00 BUCK COOK STOVE.

The only condition of this offer is, that you halt in front of our door, 28 N. Main Street, Sumter, S. C., and allow us to count passengers in your vehicle.

Let every farmer in the surrounding territory contend for this Buck Stove.

Yours truly,

BEWLEY HARDWARE CO.

P. S.—Should there be a tie, the stove will be turned over to parties so tying, and they can arrange that among themselves. Bewley Hardware Co.

The Watchman and Southron

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1905.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The leading editorial from the New York Commercial on the Cotton situation which we reproduce today shows how closely the views of a disinterested observer coincide with the doctrine being preached by the officers of the Southern Cotton Growers Association. If the cotton farmers sell their cotton this fall for less than this cost of production and disaster and hard times come again they will have only themselves to blame.

The business men of all sections of this country are agreed that the industrial salvation of the South and to a less extent that of the entire country is now in the hands of the cotton farmers of the South. If they obstinately refuse to reduce the acreage they will bring disaster upon themselves and the South. We relieve it would be wise to reduce the cotton acreage not only 25 per cent. but even 40 or 50 per cent. to make a small crop absolutely sure. The farmers would receive as much for the small crops for a large one and the other crops that they can grow on the unused cotton lands would be clear profit.

The building of the new railroad from this city to McBee will probably be the means of bringing the coal road from the West via Winston-Salem to deep water this way and on to Charleston. The Sumter and Northern, while only a local enterprise on its face intended to give Sumter and Bishopville a connection with the Seaboard Air Line, is really a most important link in a great enterprise. Its consummation means a great deal more to Charleston than to Sumter and if the gentlemen who started out to give Sumter another outlet succeed in unbottling Charleston they will have proven themselves the best friends that city and South Carolina have ever had. And we have reason to feel confident that the Sumter and Northern will be built at an early day.

The Conference for Education in the South which will be held in Columbia next week should be carried to Charleston next year for the purpose of doing missionary work. President Roosevelt once visited that city and made converts, though it is true that

many of them proved to be backsliders a little later and abjured the Roosevelt cult.

In view of the fact that a sale of the court house is a possibility of the immediate future would it not be wise to postpone the erection of the iron fence on the square?

Last week the Newberry Observer had a queer front page. It republished the New York Herald's dispatches describing the assassination of President Lincoln in 1865 and immediately following this forty-year-old news it gave Mr. A. C. Jones' platform. After reading both articles one might conclude that the make-up of the page was intended to be suggestive inasmuch as there was nothing new in the views that Mr. Jones professes to believe will make him governor of South Carolina.

The information comes credibly that personally there are no hard feelings between Admirals Togo and Rojestvensky. Undoubtedly, either one would outdo the other in the courtesy of attendance at a naval funeral.

The Hon. Whitelaw Reid will not commence his service for a month or more yet. It takes a man of Ambassador Choate's popularity a good while to "clean-up" in the matter of dinners and other courtesies and conventionalities.

The suggestion has been made that the name of the Columbia Library be changed to "The Timrod Library," and we are informed that it meets with the approval of many Columbians. The suggestion is good and it should be adopted. Timrod's genius has never been fully appreciated by his own people and his memory has not been, as yet, properly honored. The Columbia Library Association will honor itself by taking the name of Timrod as a distinctive mark—it will differentiate it from the ubiquitous Carnegie libraries that dot the country from one end to the other like bill boards.

It is the duty of every citizen who has the interest of Sumter at heart to go to the polls next week and vote for Sumter to own her water works system.

The claim is made by the Defender, the local colored newspaper, edited by W. T. Andrews, that the negroes of Sumter county are not receiving a fair share of the school tax, in proportion to the amount paid by them into the school fund in school and poll taxes

and dispensary profits. The claim is supported by figures and estimates, where figures are not obtainable, that appear to be conservative. We have not made an investigation of the matter and cannot express our opinion without first doing so. However, it is a matter that will bear investigation and the county board of education and the school trustees of the several districts should look into the matter, since the question has been raised. Of one point we are sure: the negro schools are entitled to all the school taxes the negroes pay.

We believe that if the question of selling the court house square for \$60,000 could be put to a vote a four-fifths majority of the voters of Sumter county would favor the sale. It is an opportunity to obtain what we want—a modern court house—at no cost to the taxpayers and at the same time materially increase the taxable property of the county.

It is lucky for the policy holders that the assets of the insurance companies were so huge otherwise the officers and their friends might have crippled them.

Senator Tillman is said to spend his time working his flower garden. A statesman with a job can afford to indulge his aesthetic tastes in this way.

Japan will hardly carry her protests against the Russians' use of French ports to the point of provoking active hostilities, for while Russia is whipped on land and disabled on sea it would be a little too much for the Japs to handle with France added to the fracas.

Frost may be a good thing for pumpkins, but it's bad on fruit and garden sass.

We should all lend our aid to the Chamber of Commerce in its effort to build up Sumter. It is worthy of the support of every citizen.

Rojestvensky seems to know a thing or two—he prefers staying where he's at. But the perplexing question is: "Where is he at?"

The Rev. Mr. Millard seems to be a little "pied up" in his matrimonial ventures.

The streets recently paved add a great deal to the beauty of Sumter. Pretty streets impress the stranger.

A Paris doctor says radium will cure snake bites. This is an insidious as-

sault on the dispensary revenue in South Carolina.

Mr. Bryan has begun to distribute his free seeds for 1908.

The millinery stores of Sumter have had a large business, judging from the many beautiful Easter bonnets on dress parade Sunday.

"This council cannot be haltered and led around by anyone!" Spoke in open meeting by Mayor Geo. W. Dick. That's telling them a few.

New York Republicans are refusing to desert Odell in order to make Frank S. Black the party leader. They are tired of Odell but will not make a change until they think they can make an improvement.

Castro is said to have offered Gen. Sherman Bell, of Colorado, a large salary to take command of the Venezuelan army. If any other inducement is necessary, Colorado ought to be willing to offer it.

Federal office holders are rapidly being divided into two classes—Rough Riders and Iowa men.

We will know how seriously the Texans are taking it when the reports come in of the number of babies that are being named for Theodore Roosevelt.

Secretary Shaw is to ask the courts to decide just what sort of liquor Japan's tippie, sake, is. The secretary's curiosity about liquors may call for an explanation to his Iowa friends.

Minister Ernest Lyon says good negroes are wanted in Liberia. That particular variety is also greatly desired in this country.

Republican papers in Chicago are making sport of Mayor-Elect Dunne for having sought the advice of the Lord Mayor of Glasgow in his work of establishing municipal street railroads but they would be in a position to make more sport of him if he didn't get expert advice and do what he is pledged to do.

Murray's Iron Mixture.

Now is the time to take a spring tonic. By far the best thing to take is Murray's Iron Mixture. It makes pure blood and gets rid of that tired feeling. At all druggists 50 cents a bottle or direct from the Murray Drug Co., Columbia, S. C.

Easter Clothes ==FOR== Men and Boys.

Do not be discouraged by these chilly mornings and abandon the idea of investing in an Easter Suit, for the weather man says it is going to be warmer on Sunday. We are well equipped to supply your wants from the smallest boy in your family who may want to appear in his first pair of pants, to the old man himself, and he need not feel embarrassed, if his form should be a little irregular, as there will be no trouble in fitting him out of our supply of stouts and slims.

AS TO PRICES.

Every man can't afford to wear fine clothes even for Easter, but he who has only a five dollar bill to invest, will find in that grade garment, with us, as good results as though he paid nearly double the price at many other places. We received this week a shipment of Navy Blue Serge Suits, of fine quality that were slightly damaged in transit, on which the transportation company allowed us a discount, and this benefit will be given our customers.

EASTER HATS.

Should you find it too cool to buy a straw, we have a full line of light shades in felts.

NECK WEAR.

Even the man who cannot afford to buy a new suit for Easter, will buy a Neck Tie.

Our 25 Cent Line

In Four in Hand is Very Strong

At 50 Cents.

You will find as nobby a line to select from as is shown anywhere. The man or boy will not be fashionably dressed for Easter according to our idea unless he buys his outfit from us.

O'DONNELL & CO.